

**"GRAND PREMIER" KICK OFF EVENT FOR THE CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM AT VERBUM DEI HIGH SCHOOL**

**First existing Catholic school in the nation to convert to a work-study institution**

**Event date: August 19, 2002 9-10am**

**School Campus: 11100 Central Avenue in South Los Angeles**

(July 30, 2002) Verbum Dei High School ("Word of God" in Latin) is an all-male Archdiocesan four-year college preparatory for boys in the heart of Watts in South Los Angeles. The school was founded in 1962 to provide young men in Watts a high quality education. Verbum Dei's student body is 63% African American and 37% Latino and graduates nearly 100% of its students. The school serves students from South Los Angeles, Lynwood, Gardena, Carson and Inglewood. Since it's founding, 80%-90% of its graduates move on to further education.

To address the increasingly difficult challenge of tuition expenses for its primarily low-income students, the school is embracing a work-study program. The program begins implementation in September 2002. Verbum Dei's corporate partners will provide a full-time, entry-level clerical job, shared by a team of four students who will each rotate one day per week for a combined \$25,000 salary. This salary will cover 70% of the annual cost (\$8,800) per student.

"I think it's a great opportunity for us. It's going to show us how the real world is," said Fredrick Gordon, sophomore at Verbum Dei and participant in the program during a tour of corporate partner, Aon Risk Management.

"So many times you get asked to donate dollars, and don't know where they go; you don't get to see the fruits of the donation" said Mike McRoskey, Senior Vice President, CB Richard Ellis

**Both quoted in a Los Angeles Times article on May 16, 2002.**

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| <b>Invited Guests and VIPs:</b>  | Students, parents, participating employers and alumni. Pat Haden (Riordan, Lewis and Haden), Magic Johnson, Ken Lombard, Board President DWP and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony.    |
| <b>Major Corporate Partners:</b> | Aon Risk Services, CB Richard Ellis, Ernst and Young, O'Melveny and Myers law firm.   |
| <b>Location information:</b>     | School gymnasium on the campus grounds at 11100 South Central Avenue. Secure parking is available. Verbum Dei is located north of the Central avenue exit on the 105 Freeway. |